

TRIBES IN THE EN UPDATE

From the Tribal Exchange Network Group



Listening and Learning Together in the Pacific Northwest

By Angie Reed, Penobscot Indian Nation & TXG Vice Chair

As a long-standing member of the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG) one of my favorite ways to support Tribes is through one-on-one mentoring with other Tribal environmental data folks (especially if it includes teaching folks about R).

Over the course of 2023, I'd been working with folks from the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Skokomish Indian Tribe on a variety of technical supports as they'd taken advantage of the one-on-one tribal assistance (TA) that the Tribal Exchange Network (TXG) offers to Tribal Environmental Professionals. Through our shared discussions, the idea percolated up to do a 'Tribal Assistance Tour' of the Northwest so that we could deep-dive into some of the work we'd all been doing together.



From L to R: Sarah Kowalski, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC); Angie Reed, Penobscot Indian Nation/TXG; Catherine Harris, NWIFC; Marissa Pauling, NWIFC.

In August 2023, we made it happen and I had the amazing opportunity to meet many of my tribal professional colleagues in person, spend time getting to know their work in more detail, and going out in the field with them.

I enjoyed two days with each tribal environmental program and got to meet many more people than the original lineup. Together, we spent time using white boards to describe various data workflows for water quality monitoring projects and often had time to get into the weeds of the entire lifecycle of one or more data flows to better map it. During our deep dives we talked about the various types of hardware and software used at each step, how nicely they play with one another, and what might help make the processes more efficient. We also wrote some R code to help analyze and visualize their data and discussed the possibility of writing Exchange Network (EN) grants that could potentially help them access equipment and funding to do their work more efficiently. (Cont. on next page...)

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Sheryn Olson
Inter-Tribal Monitoring Data Project Manager, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Lisa Gover
Director - Environmental Quality, Gila River Indian Community



Listening and Learning Together in the Pacific Northwest (Cont.)

Everyone graciously took me out in the field to see where their data starts, and the reason that they do this work. Although saddened by the many issues that plague the water and fish in the region, I enjoyed developing a deeper understanding of how and where tribal environmental staff are diligently working on protection and restoration efforts. I recognized many of the challenges faced with field data collection and learned a lot about different techniques used to overcome them.

Another highlight of the trip was having the company of Jess Kunke, PhD candidate at University of Washington Seattle, and teacher of many TXG-sponsored R trainings in the past three years. Jess has been interested in getting to know more about what tribal environmental professionals are doing and helping when and where possible. Jess got to meet folks at Squaxin Island and the Hoh Tribe and spend a lot of time discussing the Hoh Tribe's data workflows, digging into some existing R code and planning for how we can work together to improve it.

Additionally, during a walking meeting with Marissa Pauling, Hatchery NPDES Permit Biologist, and Catherine Harris, SSHIAP Regional Biologist from the

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), we decided to begin a Pacific Northwest Tribal Coding group, with the plan to use it as a pilot project for a larger community of practice that could benefit tribal environmental professionals throughout Indian country. (Keep an eye on this newsletter for updates on that!)

I could not think of a better way to end my visits than to have Michelle Totman, Natural Resources GIS Specialist at Tulalip Tribes, get to learn that Tulalip had received the \$500,000 partnership EN grant for which she had applied! Last year, after Michelle reached out to TXG for Tribal Assistance/Mentorship, she and I discussed how perfect her project was for the EN grant. Between my encouragement, suggestions, and work with Bruce Jones, NWIFC employee and TXG member, she wrote a fantastic proposal that netted her and Tulalip much-needed assistance.

In the end, the trip resulted in many individual plans for future work on writing EN grants, developing R code, and integrating with other software, and everyone I worked with on this trip agreed that meeting in person was extremely valuable and helped to deepen relationships in a way that is just not possible when online.

A special thank you to the Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal environmental professionals who made this trip so rewarding.

- [Skokomish Indian Tribe](#)
- [Squaxin Island Tribe](#)
- [Hoh Tribe](#)
- [Tulalip Tribes](#)
- [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#)

If you or your team are interested in *free* one-on-one support for your Tribe's environmental data needs, please reach out to us at txg@tribalexchangenetwork.org or for more information visit www.tribalexchangenetwork.org.



Erica Marbet collecting data on stream temperatures for Squaxin Island Tribe

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration open for the Southwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training

March 4-7th, 2024

The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM), St. Mary's University of Minnesota GeoSpatial Services (SMUMN GSS), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invite tribal water quality and aquatic resource staff to learn how to enhance your program's ability to implement Clean Water Act (CWA) programs.

The training workshop will address four areas key to water programs:


1. Monitoring and assessment;
2. Data (collection, management, analysis, etc.)
3. Water quality standards; and
4. Regulatory and non-regulatory program options.

Limited travel scholarship funding available to help defray expenses as needed, see website for more info.

Registrations due: 01/26/2024 or until maximum capacity reached.

TXG's Tribal Data Drop-In Sessions

Next Session: November 16th, 2024

On a monthly basis, TXG members and professional associates alike join together to host a 1-hour Tribal Data Drop-In session. Sessions cover a wide range of topics around Tribal environmental data including R coding, general data management topics, Survey123, mapping, etc. Bring your data management question to an upcoming Tribal Data Drop-In session and join in a safe, pressure-free troubleshooting environment. Details & links here. 

No registration deadlines.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) and Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov) Summit: Building Action and Power

April 11-12th, 2024

The U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network will hold a two-day in-person summit near Tucson, Arizona on the homelands of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. IDSov and IDGov advocates will use the summit to transition their work from delineating principles and rights of Indigenous Peoples related to accessing and controlling their own data, knowledges, cultural heritage, specimens and relatives toward the following three goals:

1. Establishing a national standard in the US. for Indigenous data governance,
2. Creating an Indigenous data standard via nation-to-nation partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, and
3. Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' laws, policies, and systems for Indigenous data sovereignty led by the priorities, vision, and strengths of sovereign Indigenous Peoples for our shared data futures.

GET IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

EPA's Exchange Network Forum

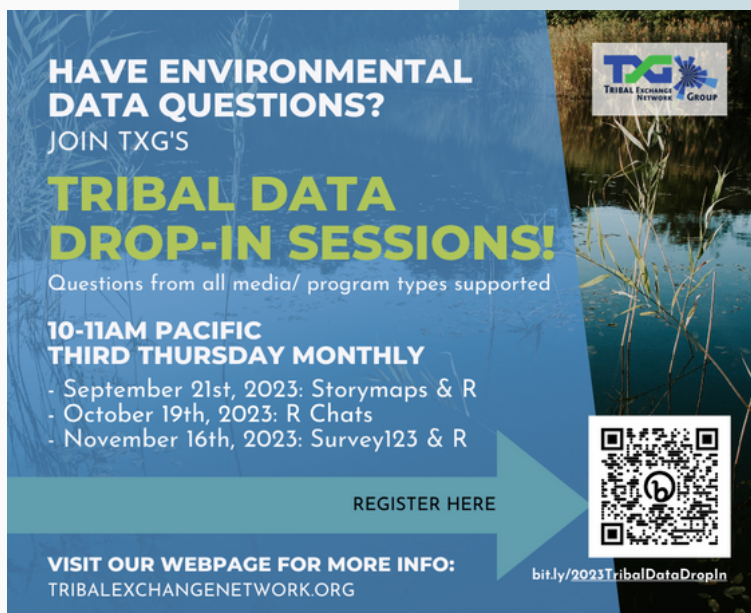
November 9th, 2024

The Exchange Network is a community that works together to improve data sharing, leading to better decision-making to protect people and the environment.

The forum is a venue to discuss how to improve and better use the Exchange Network's services and partnerships to share information among EPA, States, and Tribes. The Forum provides an opportunity for Exchange Network partners to:

- Learn about important Exchange Network information and updates.
- Share challenges and opportunities to improve the Exchange Network's collaborative model, communication channels, and technical framework.
- Learn about innovative ways EPA, States and Tribes are using the Exchange Network.

The Forum will meet the second Thursday of every month via Zoom. Link in title above.



HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA QUESTIONS?
JOIN TXG'S
TRIBAL DATA DROP-IN SESSIONS!
Questions from all media/ program types supported
10-11AM PACIFIC THIRD THURSDAY MONTHLY
- September 21st, 2023: Storymaps & R
- October 19th, 2023: R Chats
- November 16th, 2023: Survey123 & R
REGISTER HERE
VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO:
TRIBALEXCHANGENETWORK.ORG
bit.ly/2023TribalDataDropIn

TRAININGS & RESOURCES

Environmental Protection Network's Free Technical Assistance

The Environmental Protection Network (EPN) is providing NO-COST assistance to tribes. Their network of over 550 EPA alumni volunteers can help tribes effectively and meaningfully participate in government decision-making by helping them navigate EPA, potential grants, regulatory processes, federal policies, and publicly available data to support their work. You can view their webpage to view their focus, past projects, services types, contact information and more.

In addition, the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and EPN have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that is focused on helping tribes to address their climate adaptation priorities, though the technical assistance available from EPN isn't limited to climate adaptation or this MOU.

If you're interested in receiving free technical assistance, please visit the EPN [website](#), or contact Davina Resto at Davina.Resto@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Online Courses

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) [Click Here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs.

EPA's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Launched

EPA's [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) launched in September. They will provide technical assistance and grant writing support to community-based nonprofit organizations, tribes and local governments so that they're ready for the [\\$550 million EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant Making Program](#).

Make sure that you have [signed up](#) to receive this help! The compiled submissions -- assembled in a publicly available [Excel sheet](#) -- will also help you identify like-minded organizations in your region to partner with for funding opportunities.

Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science (CBIKS) Launches

[CBIKS](#) "will examine how to effectively and ethically braid Western and Indigenous science research, education, and practice related to the urgent and interconnected challenges of climate change, cultural places, and food security." CBIKS is supported by [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) 5-year, \$30-million grant. This is the first research hub funded by NSF's Science and Technology Centers Program.

The Center is partnering with 57 Indigenous communities and dozens of institutions and organizations, and has a team of over 50 scientists and scholars from around the world. A Data Sovereignty Working Group will be part of this work.

EPA Grants Trainings Available

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the availability of [several new and updated training resources](#) for grant applicants and recipients:

- NEW—Learn how to Register in [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) to apply for EPA grants. Aimed to help you register your organization in SAM.gov, create an applicant profile in Grants.gov.
- How to Develop a Budget training will help you prepare work plans, budgets, and budget narratives for EPA grants.
- EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients introduces key aspects of the grant life cycle starting with preparing an application through closing out a grant.

EPA Tools & Resources Webinar Series

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series [Click here](#) to see all past and upcoming webinars hosted by the EPA.

Software Licensing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): A Resource for Tribal Environmental Professionals

This document provides information on sensible and efficient approaches for tribes who use federal funding to procure software and support its longer-term operations and maintenance costs. A complimentary document, [the Software Procurement Roadmap for Tribes](#) provides a step by step roadmap for procuring software.

For questions, contact Jessica Snyder, Office of E-Enterprise at snyder.jessica@epa.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA UPDATES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released first set of data collected under the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5).

In the latest action to deliver on [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#), UCMR 5 will provide new data that will improve EPA's understanding of the frequency that [29 PFAS](#) and lithium are found in the nation's drinking water systems, and at what levels. The monitoring data on PFAS and lithium will help the Agency make determinations about future actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This action advances the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to combat PFAS pollution and safeguard drinking water for all people.

EPA is also deploying \$9 billion, included in President Biden's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), specifically to invest in communities with drinking water impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants. This includes \$4 billion via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and \$5 billion through EPA's "Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities" grant program. States, Tribes and communities can further leverage an additional nearly \$12 billion in BIL DWSRF funds and billions more in annual SRF funds dedicated to making drinking water safer. These funds will help communities make important investments in solutions to remove PFAS from drinking water. For more information visit [EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water webpage](#).

BLM Riparian and Wetland AIM data is now publicly available

Anyone can [now access BLMs high quality Riparian and Wetland monitoring data](#) for assessing natural resource condition and trend on BLM-managed public lands.

Learn more about BLM AIM data here: <https://www.blm.gov/AIM>.

Indigenous Governance Database (IGD)

The IGD is a collection of more than 1600 video, audio and text-based resources highlighting Indigenous perspectives on hot topics like Native nation building, Tribal citizenship, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, self-determination and more.

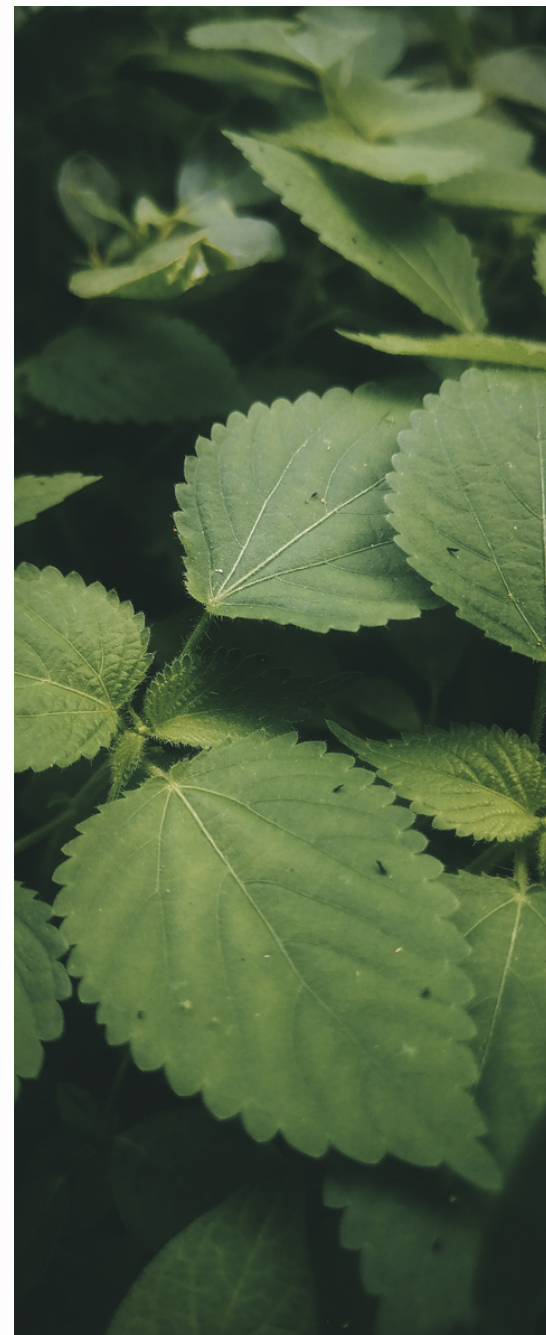
Learn more about this valuable resource for students, scholars and anyone else interested in learning more about Native nation on [our website](#).

U.S. EPA Finalized Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for PFAS under the Toxic Substances Control Act

EPA has finalized the reporting and recordkeeping requirements for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In accordance with obligations under TSCA, EPA is requiring any person that manufactures (including import) or has manufactured (including imported) PFAS or PFAS-containing articles in any year since January 1, 2011, to electronically report information regarding PFAS uses, production volumes, disposal, exposures, and hazards. The finalized rule will assist EPA to understand who

is using PFAS, how they are being used, and in what quantities. This rule will produce actionable data that can be used by EPA, as well as state, local, and Tribal governments to craft policies and laws that protect people from dangerous "forever chemicals." For more information, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/tsca-section-8a7-reporting-and-recordkeeping>



FUNDING & CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

[NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\) funding announced](#)

Approximately \$2 million in funding for projects is available to support tribal drought resilience as part of President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#). This investment will help tribal nations address current and future drought risk on tribal lands across the Western U.S. while informing decision-making and strengthening tribal drought resilience in a changing climate. Proposals may request funding of up to \$700,000 total to be disseminated in the first year and expended over three years in the form of cooperative agreements. **Application Deadline: 2/24/2024.**

[Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup SN announced.](#)

In late September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$235 million in grants from President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#) to assess and clean up polluted brownfield sites across the country. The new grants through EPA's Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) program will advance environmental justice and help transform what were once polluted, vacant, and abandoned properties into community assets while spurring economic revitalization in underserved communities. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 200 grants nationwide this cycle at amounts ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million per award. **Applications due: 11/10/2023.**

[NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)

\$45 million in funding is available for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act](#). Through this funding, NOAA will help support community-driven habitat restoration and build the capacity of tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities. **Applications due: 12/19/2023.**

[2023 Environmental Education \(EE\) Local Grant Program](#)

\$3.6 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants is now available. EPA will award grants in each of EPA's 10 Regions, between \$50,000-\$100,000 each, for a total of 30-40 grants nationwide. The program includes support for projects that reflect the intersection of environmental issues with climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, preventing future water quality and human health issues, in addition to other environmental topics. **Applications due: 11/8/2023.**

[FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy is Seeking Comments on Tribal Nation's Wireless Access](#)

The Office of Native Affairs and Policy at the Federal Communication Department (FCC) released a [Public Notice](#) (Notice) seeking public comment on ways in which the Commission can improve its understanding of how and the extent to which Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community, as defined in the Notice, are able to access wireless spectrum.

Electronic filings can be submitted by going to the [Submit a Standard Filing](#) portion of the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System, where you can begin by entering the docket number "23-265" in the "Proceeding(s)" field. For more detailed information, including how to submit paper filings, please refer to the Notice. **Comment Deadline: November 30, 2023.**

November Reader Poll

What type of data management training would most benefit your Tribal Environmental Program?

Follow the link below to answer:

[BIT.LY/3P4S5QB](https://bit.ly/3P4S5QB)



EXCHANGE NETWORK NEWS

If you filed for an Exchange Network (EN) Grant this fiscal year, please see below for updates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- Application status letters went out Aug. 28th; the EN Grant Program staff is currently processing selected applications.
- Please keep an eye out for emails from grant staff, as application errors need to be corrected before processing; delays in responding or providing updated documents will further delay award finalization.
- Staff will be reaching out to any organizations whose indirect cost rates expired on September 30th; there are three options:
 - Use an updated rate agreement OR draft rate agreement, as submitted to DOI (and update application with the new rate as needed);
 - Use the de minimus rate of 10%; or
 - Work with EPA to submit an exemption, allowing you to use your old rate.
- Tentative timeline is for awards to be processed in late October to mid-November
- Note: Although awards are delayed, period of performance dates will remain October 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2026.
 - The first round of semi-annual reports will therefore be due on the standard schedule per our Terms and Conditions (March 31st, due in CDX by April 30th).
- The EN Grant Program met & exceeded its Tribal commitment this year (at least 20% of total funding to be awarded to tribal grantees); the office will be sharing more details on that in the future.
- Once all awards are final, the list of awardees and a summary of their projects will be available on the EN website here:
<https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/previous-exchange-network-grant-projects>

Did your Tribal Environmental Program recently receive an Exchange Network Grant? We'd love to hear about it! Reach out at TXG@TribalExchangeNetwork.org to share your story and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Find out more about the [Exchange Network & its Grant Program](#)

TRIBAL DATA IN THE NEWS

[The power of Indigenous voices and data supporting the green transition](#) ©EurekaAlert!, 7/29/23.

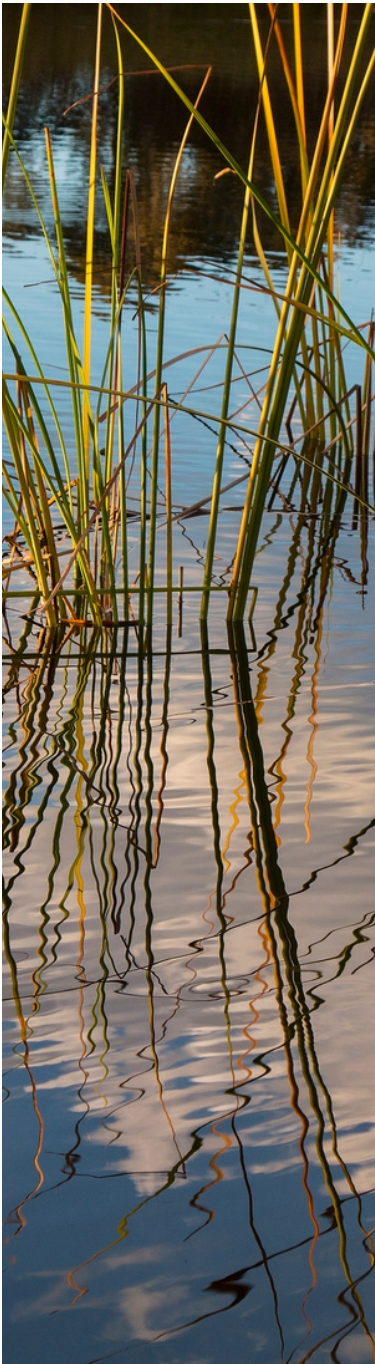
[EPA Needs to Develop A Business Case for Replacing Legacy Air Quality Data Systems](#)
©Government Accountability Office, 09/23.

[Data Sovereignty and Collaboration with Indigenous Groups](#) ©HPCWire, 8/2/23.

[Applying the 'CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance' to ecology and biodiversity research](#)
©Nature - Ecology & Evolution Paper, 8/9/23.

[How Indigenous Groups are Leading the Way on Data Privacy](#)
©Scientific American, 6/7/23.

[Indigenous Data Sovereignty](#)
©Open Data for Development Network, 10/31/23.



JOB & INTERNSHIP BOARD

[Community Climate Adaptation Coordinator, International Arctic Research Center, University of AK](#)

This position will serve as a liaison between the AK CASC and communities in Southeast Alaska. Primary responsibilities will be to coordinate community climate adaptation needs assessments, projects, and initiatives; facilitate information exchange among communities, the university, and agency partners; and develop and implement climate adaptation projects. This position can be based in any Southeast Alaska community.

Applications due: ASAP

[Data Architect, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission \(CRITFC\)](#)

The Data Architect will have primary responsibility for storing and providing CRITFC data and will help to utilize our data more fully to make the best scientific and administrative decisions. The ideal candidate for this role is an IT professional who has a strong connection to the natural world and a strong desire to be of service to our region's tribes.

Applications due: ASAP

[GIS Data Technician, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission \(NWIFC\)](#)

Assist in the development and management of the Case Area habitat data, by identifying, integrating, and organizing tribal, state, federal data for integration into AquaScope. Assist with the sharing of data with the member tribes.

Applications due: 11/7/2023

[GIS Manager, Nisqually Indian Tribe](#)

The GIS Manager leads the GIS team in support of the GIS needs of all tribal departments. The GIS Manager's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, GIS staff supervision, project management, budget development and management, SQL Server database administration, and enterprise GIS system planning and administration.

Open till filled; Posted: 10/23/2023.

[Environmental Data Analyst/Wetland Coordinator, Hoopa Valley Tribe](#)

Open till filled; Posted: 10/17/23.

[Environmental Protection Specialist, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe](#)

Open until filled; Posted 10/22/2023

HAVE A STORY
IDEA OR UPDATE
TO SHARE?

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TXG@TRIBALEXCHANGENETWORK.ORG

SIGN UP FOR ONE-ON-ONE FREE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LEARN
ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER, AND
MEET OUR MEMBERS AT:
TRIBALEXCHANGENETWORK.ORG

You have received this email as a
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Newsletter.

This newsletter was developed by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) on behalf of the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG), under Assistance Agreement (OS-83997701) awarded to Northern Arizona University (NAU) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of the TXG.

